Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 02019 110937Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 //075 W

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R 110855Z MAY 77 FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7713 CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BEXP, SN, BA

SUBJECT: BAHRAINI FONMIN VISIT TO SINGAPORE

REF: MANAMA 0953

1. BAHRAINI FONMIN MOHAMED AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE KASSIM CONCLUDED FOUR-DAY TRIP TO SINGAPORE MAY 5. VISIT RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE, AND GOS FETED ITS GUESTS AT DINNERS HOSTED BY FONMIN RAJARATNAM AND FINANCE MINISTER HON SUI SEN AS WELL AS A LUNCHEON GIVEN BY SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE (FOREIGN AFFAIRS) LEE KHOON CHOY. GOB DELEGATION MET FULL GAMUT OF GOS OFFICIALS FROM PM LEE DOWN.

2. MFA OFFICER TOLD EMBOFFS MAY 10 NO ECONOMIC OR COMMERCIAL AGREEMENTS RESULTED FROM BAHRAINI VISIT HERE. TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE AGREED TO SET UP COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS INCREASED COOPERATION IN AREA OF MUTUAL INTEREST, BUT COMPOSITION, VENUE AND AGENDA OF COMMITTEE HAVE NOT BEEN DECIDED. HOPEFULLY, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, FIRST MEETING AND DECISIONS ON PROJECTS WILL OCCUR BEFORE PM LEE AND FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 SINGAP 02019 110937Z

ACCEPT RENEWED INVITATION TO VISIT BAHRAIN, POSSIBLY LATER THIS YEAR.

3. INDIAN OCEAN WAS DISCUSSSED, MFA OFFICER SAID, BUT ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS AND IN CONJUCTION WITH DISCUSSION OF OTHER COMMONALITIES; E.G., SMALL ISLAND STATES, ANTI-COMMUNIST LEANINGS, STABLE REGIONAL GROUPINGS, ETC. BAHRAINIS

REPORTEDLY AGREED WITH SINGAPORE'S CONTENTION THAT THE WESTERN NATIONS CANNOT AFFORD TO RELAX THEIR INTEREST IN THE GULF OR IN SEA LEST SOVIETS BEGIN PUSHING AT THE WEAK POINTS. THERE WAS NO PUBLIC COMMENT ON INDIAN OCEAN.

4. BAHRAINIS WERE QUITE INTERESTED IN SINGAPORE'S DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE, AND FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMED (DESCRIBED BY MFA OFFICER AS HAVING A "LIVELY MIND") ASKED MANY DETAILED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE STRUCTURE OF SINGAPORE'S HOUSING PROGRAM, PORT MANAGEMENT AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

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Subject: BAHRAINI FONMIN VISIT TO SINGAPORE

TAGS: PFOR, BEXP, SN, BA, (KHALIFA, MUHAMMAD IBN MUBARAK AL)

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